

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of  
Administration of the North  
American Numbering Plan  
TO: The Commission

)  
) CC Docket No. 92-237  
)  
)  
) Phase One

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

REPLY COMMENTS OF  
AMERICAN PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

American Personal Communications ("APC")<sup>1/</sup> hereby  
replies to the comments filed in response to Phase One of the  
Commission's Notice of Inquiry ("NOI") in the above-captioned  
docket relating to the administration of the North American  
Numbering Plan ("NANP").<sup>2/</sup>

In light of the complexity of PCS numbering issues,  
APC urges the Commission to initiate a rulemaking proceeding  
to address the availability of geographic and non-geographic  
codes for PCS, implementation of local number portability and  
administration of the NANP by a disinterested entity.

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<sup>1/</sup> American PCS, L.P., d/b/a American Personal Communica-  
tions, a partnership of American Personal Communications, Inc.  
and The Washington Post Company.

<sup>2/</sup> Notice of Inquiry, CC Docket No. 92-237 (released October  
29, 1992).

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I. PCS NUMBERING IS CRITICAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PCS INDUSTRY.

In the course of attempting to launch personal communications services ("PCS") in the United States, the Commission and industry members have focused most of their efforts on spectrum issues, which are essential to the successful deployment of PCS. Less attention has been paid to PCS numbering issues, including local number portability, which also have critical implications for the development of a healthy PCS industry. These issues now are ripe for more detailed consideration.

PCS, as defined by the Commission, is "a family of mobile or portable radio communications services which could provide services to individuals and businesses, and be integrated with a variety of competing networks."<sup>3/</sup> PCS also is a service that enables "people or devices to communicate independent of location."<sup>4/</sup>

As APC's extensive market trials demonstrate, two-way calling is critical to the success of PCS.<sup>5/</sup> Thus, the industry must examine how, where and at what number a

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<sup>3/</sup> Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish New Personal Communications Services, Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Tentative Decision, 7 F.C.C. Rcd. 5676, 5689 (1992).

<sup>4/</sup> "PCS Service Descriptions," Telocator PCS Section (Sept. 22, 1992).

<sup>5/</sup> See APC's Tenth Progress Report, Station KC2XDM, FCC File No. 2056-EX-ML-91 (filed January 26, 1993).

subscriber will wish to be reached, as well as how that subscriber will wish to place calls. At least until voice dialing is universally available -- which will be a number of years in the future -- calls will be made and received by numbers administered under the NANP. The key decision-maker, though, should be the customer.

However, current plans of industry participants other than PCS entrepreneurs are to assign a new set of non-geographic numbers for PCS, as outlined in the "North American Numbering Plan Administrator's Proposal on the Future of Numbering in WZ1 -- Second Edition," pp. 17-19 (issued Jan. 8, 1993). This proposal would require any new subscriber to PCS service to obtain a new telephone number. But the paramount consideration should be the needs of the public, particularly PCS consumers; satisfying those needs should outweigh concerns about modifications to existing network architectures, competitive impact, and changes in existing control mechanisms over telephone numbers.

Accordingly, PCS providers should be able to request and obtain any combination of numbering resources necessary to offer their services to meet customer demand. The NANP should not restrict the manner in which any carrier may implement a service using either geographic or non-geographic codes. PCS providers thus should have access to all current geographic

codes as well as to new geographic and non-geographic codes.<sup>6/</sup>

Numbering is essential for any telecommunications service -- particularly for a new service, such as PCS -- to be viable. The Commission should move forward to examine these issues without delay.<sup>7/</sup>

## II. PCS NUMBERING ISSUES DEMAND A DISINTERESTED NANP ADMINISTRATOR.

The initial comments clearly reflect the desirability of transferring administration of the NANP to an independent and objective entity. The potential for conflicts of interest arising from PCS numbering and portability issues also strongly supports the establishment of one or more objective expert bodies to formulate policy and to assign NANP resources. Of course, any plan to create new entities must not cause delay in numbering administration.

APC supports the plan and principles proposed by Telocator and urges their adoption by the Commission. Under Telocator's proposal, all numbering policy issues would be handled in one forum. Policy would be developed by a representative entity accountable to regulators -- the NANP Policy Council. The Council would be independent of any

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<sup>6/</sup> See Comments of Telocator, pp. 12-13; McCaw Cellular, pp. 17-19.

<sup>7/</sup> Although portability is an essential concern for PCS, it should not delay consideration and resolution of the more immediate concern of PCS providers' obtaining codes non-discriminatorily.

existing industry organization, open to all interested parties and self-funding. The Council would be chaired by a Commission staff member and operate by consensus. Resolution of issues would be subject to FCC-imposed deadlines, with dispute resolution through expedited settlement procedures.

Ministerial assignment of codes would be entrusted to a different entity -- the NANP Administrator -- which would be selected by the Council, unaffiliated with users of numbers and accountable to the Council. In addition to its assignment functions, the Administrator would compile and disseminate the Central Office Code Utilization Survey and administer relevant data bases.

So that valuable expertise is not lost and numbering is not delayed, Bellcore should remain an integral part of NANP administration during the transition to a new administrator.

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APC urges the Commission to initiate a rulemaking proceeding as the most effective way of examining these important issues of numbering, including local number

portability, and NANP administration. Expedited action is of the essence.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

By: Ellen K. Snyder  
Jonathan D. Blake  
Ellen K. Snyder

Mr. J. Barclay Jones  
Vice President for  
Engineering

AMERICAN PERSONAL  
COMMUNICATIONS  
1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

COVINGTON & BURLING  
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Post Office Box 7566  
Washington, D.C. 20044  
(202) 662-6000

Its Attorneys

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